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John Carter Brown.

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see A. A. S. Proceedings · N. S. V. pp. 256+257

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See Holmes, Cotton Mather, p. 1133

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A

True Account

OF THE

TRYALS, EXAMINATIONS, CONFESSIONS, CONDEMNATIONS, and EXECUTIONS of divers

WITCHES,

At *SALEM*, in *NEW-ENGLAND*,

FOR

Their Bewitching of ſundry People and Cattel to Death, and doing other great Miſchiefs, to the Ruine of many People about them.

WITH

The Strange Circumſtances that attended their Enchantments:

AND

Their Converſation with Devils, and other Infernal Spirits.

In a LETTER to a Friend in LONDON.

Licenſed according to Order.

London, Printed for *J. Conyers*, in *Holbourn*.

1692.

A True Account of the Tryals and Confessions of several WITCHES, *in* New-England, *&c.*

In a *Letter* to a Friend.

SIR,

SInce in Scripture, and divers Histories, we find that by the Delusion and Temptation of the Devil, silly Creatures are drawn aside to comply with a Diabolick Power, out of Revenge, to mischief their Fellow-Creatures; and other siniſter Designs; it may not prove ungrateful to the Age, among other Matters of this kind, to give an Impartial Account of divers Persons who have been lately Try'd, Convicted and Executed in *New-England*, for their Bewitching, Torturing and Destroying People and Cattle; with many strange and amazing Circumstances that attended the Effecting of their hellish Performances. And, First,

At a Sessions of *Oyer* and *Terminer*, *Bridget Bishop* was Try'd, for Bewitching and Hurting divers Persons, and Destroying their Cattle. Against whom, upon Evidence, it appear'd in Court, That she, or something in her shape, often came and pinched and bit several Persons, grievously tormenting and affrighting them, urging them to write their Names in a Book which was then produc'd; and one refusing it, was carry'd by force from her Wheel, and threatned to be drown'd in a River, if she did not Sign it; but she over-

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overcame the Temptation: And that *Biſhop* boaſted ſhe had been the death of divers People. And thoſe ſhe had bewitch'd, when at any time ſhe look'd upon them, were extremely tortur'd; and when they were in a Swoon, if ſhe touch'd them, they would immediately revive, and many the like Geſtures, work'd ſtrange Effects. Once ſhe tempted one *Deliverance Hobbs* to Sign the Book ſhe brought; and becauſe ſhe refuſed, a Spectre, in the Shape of *Biſhop*, whip'd her with Iron Rods; and that ſhe knew this Woman to be at a General Meeting of Witches, in a Field near a Village call'd *Salem*; and that there ſhe took Bread and Wine in a Diabolical way, as a Sacrament. *John Cook* ſaid, upon Oath, That he was aſſaulted by her Shape in his Chamber; which hit him a blow on the Head, and made an Apple fly out of his Hand into his Mother's Lap, at a great diſtance.

Her ſhape was often ſeen in a great Light, which appear'd with her, ſo that ſhe might eaſily be diſcern'd. *John Blys*'s Wife Teſtified, That having bought a Sow of *Biſhop*'s Husband, and the Money being pay'd to another Perſon, the Sow was ſoon after taken with ſtrange Fits, Leaping and Jumping, and beating her Head againſt the places where ſhe came, refuſing her meat, *&c.*

She was held to bewitch a Child of one *Samuel Shattock*'s, and when ſhe payed the ſaid *Shattock* money, it was unaccountably conveyed away, though Locked never ſo ſafely up, ſhe oppreſſed one *John Louder* in the night, and had like to have deſtroy'd him; and after that, he being at home, and the doors ſhut, a black Pig, or rather the Devil in ſuch a ſhape, appear'd to him, which he going to kick, it vaniſhed, as he thought, out of the Window: then a black thing Jumped in again, with a Body like a Monkey, the

Face ſomething like a Man, and the feet like a Cocks, which in the midſt of his affrighment, told him, That underſtanding he was in trouble, he come as a Meſſenger to tell him, that if he would be ruled by him, he ſhould want nothing in the World; whereupon endeavouring to ſeize it, he could feel no ſubſtance it ſeeming to Jump out of the Window again, and then coming to the Porch, ſaid, You had better take my Counſel. He then ſtruck at it with a Stick, but the Stick broke, and it Vaniſhing, his Arm was diſabled, and afterward throwing dirt upon his Breaſt, it ſtruck him Dumb for three Days.

Many other things of the like nature were teſtifyed againſt her. As that ſhe appeared ſeveral times with a ſtrange Light, and upon her with-drawing, it was Dark. That one *Stacy* being threatned by her, was one dark Night thrown againſt a Stone-Wall, and down a Bank, *&c.* His Horſe-traces breaking in pieces, and he not being able to lift up two Buſhels of Corn, though otherwiſe a Strong Man. It was ſuſpected ſhe killed this Party's Daughter by Witchcraft, and it was proved that in taking down an old Cellar-Wall of hers, Poppets made of Clouts and Hogs-Hair, were found ſtuck with headleſs-pins. To theſe Accuſations and Proofs againſt her, ſhe made little Defence.

Suſanna Martin was Tryed upon the ſame account, and the People that were to appear againſt her, found themſelves upon their looking at her, in a ſtrange diſorder, falling down when they came to approach her, and being asked the reaſon, ſhe gave a very ſlight Anſwer.

Againſt her it was proved, that one *John Allen*, refuſing to carry her ſome Staves, by reaſon of the weakneſs of his Oxen that drove his Wain, ſhe told him he had better he had; and ſoon after one of his Oxen tired:

but

but this was not all, putting his Oxen to pasture among others, they first took a River, and then being recovered, they ran into the Sea, where they were all drowned but one, which for a time run Mad.

John Atkinson, having bought a Cow of this Woman's Son, and she being displeased at the Bargain, though this Cow was Ham-string'd and halter'd, she grew so Mad, that she broke all the Ropes, and though tyed to a Tree, she got away. *Bernard Peche*, testified, That she came in at his Window one Night, and lay upon him for two hours, when recovering himself, he got hold of her Hand, and bit her by the Finger, so that she going down Stairs, drops of Blood were found, and the prints of her feet in the Snow at the threshold, but no farther. Once she and another assaulted him in his Barn, where he knocked them down with a Quarter-Staff, but they rose up and got away, and having threatned one time, to send a she-Devil to fetch him away, a Cat soon after came in at the Window, and took hold on his Throat, when calling upon the Name of God, it flew out of the Window. Also falling out with one *Kembal*, for his refusing to buy a Puppy of her, she said he should have Puppies enough, and one day coming home, he was by an invisible Power, driven out of the Road upon stumps of Trees, and immediately a Puppy shot too and fro between his Legs, and sometimes over his Shoulder, which he could not hit, though often with his Ax he struck, at it: soon after another, bigger appeared, and flew at him with great fierceness, when calling upon the Name of Christ, it vanished; and though *Kembal* told it to no body, yet *Martin*, the Prisoner, declared how he had been served.

One *Pressy*, gave Evidence against this Woman, that coming home one Night, he saw a little out of his way a great Light, to which going and striking at it, he found

found it a solid Body, and giving it many blows, he had not gone far from it, but *Martin* appeared, and the next day he heard she was Ill of blows and hurts received. One *Ring* Testified that she came to him one Night, and bit him by the fingers, the mark of which was produced in Court.

Elizabeth How, was likewise Tryed at the same Court for a Witch, and it appeared against her that her evil looks cast People into swooning fits, and many great disorders. That she bewitched one *Stafford*'s Wife, and Child bewitched her Brother's Cattle to Death and the Cattle of divers other People Miscarried by her Curses, and bad Wishes, and if any displeased, her one mischief or other befel them, and one *Sherwin*'s Wife dying, charged her to have a hand in her Death by Witchcraft.

She bewitched and killed a Mare of one *Cumings*, and a Daughter of *Tymothy Pearly*'s, the Girl affirming to her Death, that this Woman had bewitched her, and would be in a strange taking, when even she was named, saying at the last, Though she could torment her Body, she could not hurt her Soul. Divers recanting Witches came in against her, and declared, that she had been Baptized with them by the Devil, whereupon they kneeled down and Worshipped him.

Martha Carrier, was another who was Tryed at this Court upon the like account, and against her it was proved by several Persons, whom she had bewitched, that they had been by her, or something in her shape, bit, pinched, and almost choaked, and even upon her Examination and Tryal, her looks and gestures struck them into strange Consternations and Disorders their Necks turning wildly about, at which she scoffingly declared, it were no matter if their Necks were twisted off. Her own Children had declared that she had brought them up to the same mischievous ends, declaring

ring how and where they had been upon theſe wicked deſigns, and what miſchief they had done.

She falling out with one *Abbot*, about meaſuring of Ground, he after her threatning of him, had a ſwelling in his Foot, then a pain in his Side, and many other grievous ſores fell upon him, which brought him almoſt to his Grave, till ſuch times as this Woman was apprehended, and then he recovered. His Cattle many of them were taken away, by ſtrange and unuſual Deaths. One *Toothmaker* likewiſe loſt many Cattle upon falling out with her, and having a Wound, ſhe told him it ſhould never be Cured, which indeed could not be effected, till the time of her being ſeized, and then it immediately grew well. Likewiſe the Cattle of *John Rogers* were bewitched upon his falling out with her, and divers other People ſuffered the like: She taking one *Phœbe Chandler* by the Shoulder, ſoon after ſhe heard a Voice over her Head, ſaying, In a few Days ſhe ſhould be poyſon'd; and thereupon her Hand ſwelled, and ſhe was in many great pains and torments. Divers Women that had been of her Converſation, accus'd her being at Witch-Meetings, and of Eating and Drinking with the Devil; and, that ſhe drew ſome of them into the Snare.

One thing ſtrangely happen'd, during her Tryal, *viz.* One *Suſanna Sheldon* had her Hands tied together with a Whale-Bone by an Inviſible Hand, that it could not be undone without cutting; and for this Service of *Carrier*, the Devil promis'd to make her *Queen of Hell*.

Among theſe Women, a Man was Try'd, as a Dealer in the Black-Art, and Witchcraft. It appear'd againſt him, That he had intic'd a great many to ſign the Devil's Book with Blood, or ſome Necromantick Matter. He was ſuſpected to make away Two Wives by Witchcraft; whoſe Ghoſts appear'd, and declar'd

as

as much to divers People, charging them to reveal it; and tho' he was but a weak Man to appearance, yet he would lift more than the ſtrongeſt Man could do. So that it was conjectur'd, that the Devil muſt of neceſſity aſſiſt him by a ſecret power. It appear'd againſt him, that he had intic'd many into Witchery; and One refuſing to ſign his Book, was afflicted with cruel Pains for a long time. Some he bit, and the print of his Teeth remained in their Fleſh. And it further appear'd, that he was the chief Summoner to the Witch-Meetings, and perſuaded People to communicate with the Devil; and many other horrible things, as deſtroying of Cattle, and the like.

So that upon full Evidence againſt them all, they were Convicted, and receiv'd Sentence of Death, and were accordingly executed: But ſeveral Children, and others, that had been ſeduc'd by them to theſe helliſh Practices, met with lighter Puniſhments, and have Time allowed them to repent.

SIR,

I am

SALEM,
8th. Month,
1692.

Your True Friend,

C. M.

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